



**As St. Walburga's school family we walk in the footsteps of Jesus by ...**

- welcoming all
- learning to be the best we can
- joining together in prayer
- serving God and one another



Reading Intent

*"A child who reads will be an adult who thinks."* (Unknown)

*"Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."* (Plato)

*"Once you learn to read you will be forever free."* (Frederick Douglas)

Reading is an integral part of life at St. Walburga's – we aim to enthuse and inspire children with a love of reading and provide them with the skills they need to become not only fluent, confident readers, but also life-long readers and learners, with the ability to use their reading skills across a broad curriculum. Children are provided with a rich diet of quality literature from the moment they start in Foundation Stage. We involve parents in children's reading journey - they are encouraged to read with their children both at home and at school, for example the youngest children and their parents are invited to a 'Christmas Pyjama Story' evening in their first term, and parents are also invited to read to their children at the end of the day in our much-loved outdoor 'Reading Den', which is furnished with a wide range of books, including books for pre-school siblings. We also have a bank of Parent Volunteers who visit school on a weekly basis to read with children.

Children are taught the mechanics of reading in Foundation Stage, following the 'Twinkl Phonics' programme. Children will take texts home that are closely matched to their current phonics knowledge, ensuring every child can experience success in their reading. We encourage these books to be re-read at least 3 times to practise decoding, fluency and comprehension. This is built upon in KS1 and KS2, where the deeper skills of reading are explored through a wide variety of resources and genres. Reading is taught with a great emphasis on vocabulary, in part to support those children with EAL, but also to enrich our children's active vocabularies and help them become articulate and confident speakers, readers and writers.

We have attractive libraries in both KS1 and KS2, which are well-stocked with a wide range of authors and genres, and of which children are given ownership and responsibility by being selected as Librarians. The visiting Book Fair is very popular with children and parents alike and ensures that our libraries are kept up-to-date with the latest children's literature and non-fiction books.

We have worked hard to give reading a high profile, aiming to cultivate a reading culture throughout our school community. Each class takes pride in their reading corners, with attractive displays and a wide variety of material, from comics to encyclopaedias. We hold a number of annual book events, in which children and staff alike participate with great enthusiasm, such as 'World Book Day'; visits from authors; class trips to our local Library, with which we have strong links, and visits to school from the local Librarians.

We want children to leave our school as enthusiastic, independent and resilient readers.